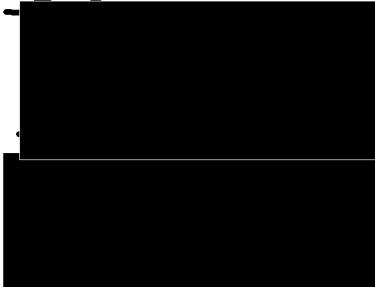


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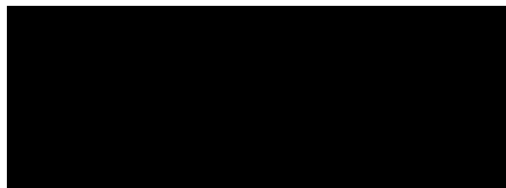


Director of Central Intelligence

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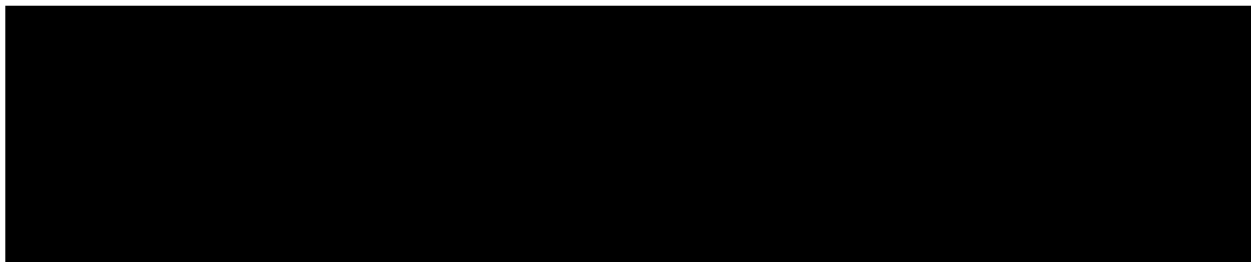
Monday, 13 November 1989



13 NOVEMBER 1989

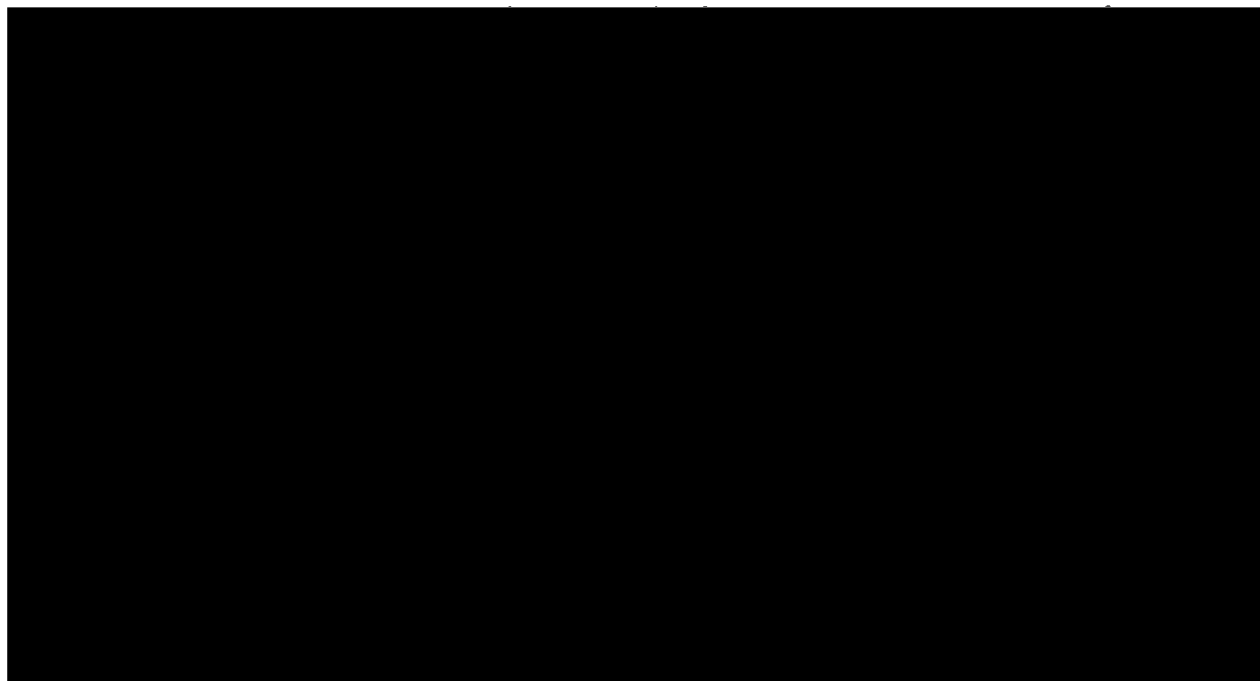
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El Salvador: Army Puts Down FMLN Offensive

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EL SALVADOR: Army Puts Down FMLN Offensive

The Salvadoran military defeated a major rebel offensive over the weekend, dealing the FMLN a severe blow. [REDACTED]

An estimated 2,000 insurgents, armed with automatic weapons—including AK-47s—explosives, rockets, and mortars, launched coordinated attacks on military and civilian targets throughout San Salvador. Several military bases in the countryside also came under small-scale or harassment attacks. Reports from the military indicate at least 127 people were killed—including a US teacher who died in a bomb blast—and 155 wounded. [REDACTED]

Despite heavy fighting throughout most of the weekend, the FMLN failed to seize any significant government facility. By yesterday afternoon, the Army apparently had regained control of the capital and was pursuing the rebels as they attempted to withdraw from San Salvador. Some pockets of guerrilla activity probably remain, however. [REDACTED]

President Cristiani has announced an open-ended state of siege to help control urban violence, which has been steadily increasing during the past year. [REDACTED]

Comment: The FMLN apparently hoped to inflict heavy losses on the armed forces and force concessions by the government. It may also have wanted to reassure foreign supporters that it remains militarily viable. This latest defeat, coming on the heels of their announced boycott of peace talks, puts the insurgents on the military and political defensive and probably will prompt senior FMLN commanders to reassess their strategy. [REDACTED]

Although political opponents almost certainly will criticize a state of siege, certain measures, such as a curfew, will help disrupt the FMLN's increasingly active urban networks. [REDACTED]

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